



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

## Los Angeles, CA

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The City of Los Angeles was selected to receive two brownfields cleanup grants. Of Los Angeles' 3.9 million residents, 70,000 live in San Pedro, a working class community where about two-thirds of residents are Latino, and 22 percent live below the poverty line. Median household income in the area is significantly lower than the median income for the rest of the city. Industrial activities associated with the nearby Port of Los Angeles have impacted this community with air pollution, noise, and diesel exhaust. The vacant gas station at the entrance of the community has hampered revitalization efforts. Cleanup of the site is part of a larger project to acquire and redevelop the entire block that forms the gateway to San Pedro, develop a new



### Cleanup Grants



#### \$400,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Los Angeles for two brownfields cleanup grants. Grant funds will be used to clean up a contaminated former gas station property located in San Pedro Gateway Park and a former oil field in Rockwood Park. For the past ten years, the former gas station has been deteriorating at the entrance to San Pedro. In 2000, when the abandoned oil extraction wells in Rockwood Park were found to be releasing dangerously high levels of methane and hydrogen sulfide gas, apartments on the site were declared unsafe and vacated.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team

415-972-3188

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

Grant Recipient: City of Los Angeles, CA  
213-978-3068

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

park and trail behind the commercial area, and establish links to other trails. Rockwood Park (population 244,369), location of the abandoned oil field, is a federally designated Renewal Community with a population that is 78 percent Hispanic or Asian. The unemployment rate is 11 percent, and 64 percent of residents have incomes below the poverty line. Residents often live in crowded conditions and are in need

of open space for recreation. The abandoned oil extraction wells have caused health concerns in the neighborhood. Brownfields redevelopment will provide the community with a park, stimulate economic development in the surrounding area, and protect residents' safety and health.